Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims Listing

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic system for managing, processing and automating electronic activity between a plurality of users, comprising:

a fixed common user interface having ~~that includes means, through the use of a plurality of~~ secondary interfaces for gathering/inputting and outputting information from at least one of said plurality of users;

said secondary input interfaces operable to structure data according to ~~and structuring data, for determining the rights and abilities of users within the system by means of~~ a common data format and operating rule for creating, storing, and transaction of data used in the system;

a central clearinghouse for authorizing and authenticating said users, said central clearinghouse being operable to maintain user identification records and control access for each of said plurality of users; and

a common market permitting the users employing the ~~said~~ system to advertise and locate propositions of interest and to connect to one another using the system ~~negotiate and fulfill transactions; and~~

wherein all said users are linked to one another and the central clearinghouse and the common market by way of a virtual private network.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein, according to said common data format and operating rule the user interface requires the user to provide, before the system will accept and undertake any activity, who/what information relating to the activity, why/how information relating to the activity, and where/when information relating to the activity and/or the subject of that activity, input according to ~~the~~ said common data format and operating rule.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein ~~the activity is a proposed business transaction, and~~ upon the user interface receiving said who/what, why/how and where/when information, the selected information relating to the activity is automatically filed as a database object that is formatted according to the common data format and operating rule ~~to be~~

~~available for searching in at least one of the group consisting of the user's database and via a common market.~~

4-17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) An electronic system for managing, processing and automating an electronic or digital activity, the system comprising:

a common user interface that includes means for gathering and structuring data relating to things and activities into common database objects that are combinable to form a plurality of types of catalogs, lists, and workflows that are used to conduct electronic business;

wherein said means for gathering and structuring data is included in a secondary interface;

wherein said means for gathering and structuring data further uses a common data format; and

wherein said common data format determines a design of the secondary interface and also the operating rule for creating, storing and processing data, in the form of intelligent database objects.

19. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein the common user interface enables the user to provide who/what information relating to the activity, why/how information relating to the activity, and where/when information relating to the activity, to be input to the system according to said common data format and the operating rule;

wherein said who/what, why/how and where/when information is input to the system through the secondary interface in a manner that conforms the common database objects to the said common data format and operating rule such that why information + how information = where/when information.

20. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein said why information identifies the purpose of the activity, and said how and where/when information identifies details of the fulfillment process that enable the database objects to achieve the purpose thereof.

21. (New) The system of claim 18, further comprising an output mode wherein the secondary interface of the system responds according to why information requests to cause said

secondary interface in output mode to be automatically populated with information objects related to the why information request that then can be compiled into various applications because of the building block nature of the common data format.

22. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein a plurality of attributes and communications relating to an activity or an item are recorded as related file objects, according to the common data format, and said attributes and communications define that activity or item in such a way that the activity can be automated or the item can be meaningfully described.